The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Aviation Group visit to the
Clacton Air Show

September 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: **www.maldonu3a.co.uk**

FROM THE CHAIR

Occasionally your Committee members have been asked whether it is possible to bring along a friend or relative to the monthly meeting or on a trip. If your friend or relative is thinking of becoming a member then we would encourage them to come along and see what goes on. However, this should be limited to a maximum of three visits in any one year and a member of the Committee must be informed either before or after the visitor has attended any meeting. This is because it would not be fair to everyone else who has paid their subs and, more importantly, they would not be covered by the U3A Public Liability Insurance.

Could I ask all members, when attending any meeting, that they please wear their name badge – thank you.

Your Committee continue to seek an alternative monthly meeting venue, we will of course keep you informed on any developments.

We have an excellent web site, Maldon & District U3A, which I would encourage members to use. If you have any U3A news, such as outings, theatre visits or trips then please forward them to either John Bowen or Tony Groves whose email addresses are in this Newsletter.

Should any member have any constructive comments to make on any U3A issues, please do not hesitate to contact either me or any Committee member or use the comments book which is available at the main meeting.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Local & General History

Monday 28 September is the visit "The Good, The Bad & The Ugly!"
We will leave the West Maldon Community Centre at 8.30 am – please leave your cars at the far end of the car park. We will pick up at Eves Corner, Danbury at 8.40 am. We will leave the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park at approximately 4.45 pm for the return journey. We still have spaces if anyone wants to join us for the day.

Our following meeting is on **Monday 26 October** 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall.

Mary Burd
Michael Blackwell

Canasta

We have spaces for new members and will be pleased to teach, this being an easy game to learn.
You will have an interesting two hours with a friendly group of people.
Elaine and Gerry

Gardeners

We had a most enjoyable afternoon at the home of Doreen Bowen for a Plant Swap on the 25th August. Despite the dreadful weather 20 people joined us and we had a great time, chatting and eating cake. This is what we do best.

Gardeners — Programme for 2016.

I have been running this group since 1999 and I intend to retire in 2016 and am therefore looking for a member with new ideas and input to take it on. I am organising an Afternoon Tea on **Thursday, 8th October** and inviting the local U3A Gardening Co-ordinators to come and pool their ideas, so please think about it and join us at 6 Blenheim Close, Bicknacre, CM3 4NE at 2.30 pm.

We all started from scratch back then and it has been such fun these past sixteen years. All those wonderful gardens we have visited and the Plant Swaps in members' gardens, and of course the cakes!
Jan Robertson

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday October 5th**, at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Alison Mainwood on "Sailing in Sweden". All U3A members are very welcome to come to the meeting for what will be a very interesting talk by Alison.

Malcolm Case

Astronomy

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE on the 4th Monday at 7.30 pm.
The next meeting of the group is on **Monday September 28th** – Mark Willis will be giving an illustrated talk entitled "A tour through the solar system expressed in clock time: 12PM Sun; 12:03 Mercury;12:06 Venus;12:08 Earth; Etc. If weather conditions allow, then we will do some observing. Saturn should be visible to the south west and about 15 degrees or so above the visible horizon. All U3A members are very welcome to join us, if you have a telescope or a good pair of binoculars then please bring them with you.

Malcolm Case

Just Jazz

The Just Jazz group will start again on the **21st September** at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm.
A bar is available.
We will be showing half hour films on Big Bands for the four sessions up to Christmas as a contrast to Jazz.
At the meeting in September we will also discuss the way members would like to proceed for the future.
Everybody is most welcome.
Jim Light

London Walks & Talks

The next meeting of the group will be on **Thursday, October 22nd** when we have a visit to London. Ian Bevan will be our guide in the Shoreditch and Hoxton area of London. The guided walk will begin at Liverpool Street Station at 11.00 and will last approx. two hours.
Please contact us for further details.
Janeen Trew
Christine Speed

Strollers

Sunday 18 October. This month's walk will be around the river, creeks and marshes of Marsh Farm Country Park in South Woodham Ferrers. This is an easy walk, mainly along the river wall footpath, on level ground. There are good views across the river and marsh with sightings of a number of birds. Meet at the Riverside Car Park in Marsh Farm Road; it is c.200 metres past the Marsh Farm Visitor Centre (CM3 5WP) on the right-hand side. There are plenty of signs in South Woodham Ferrers directing you to Marsh Farm. Please arrive at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. Lunch will be at The Whalebone, to be confirmed, in Old Wickford Road, CM3 5QU.
Contact: Marian & Michael Manning

Strollers Too

Tuesday 27 October. Meet at The Prince Of Wales, Woodham Rd., Stow Maries, CM3 6SA at 10:00 for a 10:15 start. This walk will be approx. four miles long with a few stiles, depending on which route I decide to take. Nothing too difficult. Please advise me in advance if you intend to stay for lunch afterwards so that I can book the necessary tables.
Contact: Alan Clarke

Aviation

In August we were treated to a lecture given by David Arnold about Albert Ball, a First World War flying ace and his incredible exploits in an all too short life. Really quite amazing.
We had a great day at the Clacton Air Show, thanks to Ian Stevens and some excellent weather. Everything went well and was much enjoyed by everyone.

Our next meeting at Stow Maries is on **Tuesday, 15th Sept** and this time does not fall on the day after our Maldon main meeting . Our talk this month will be given by Peter Bickerson " The History of the Spitfire " which is very appropriate as this is Battle of Britain Day. All though this aircraft is very well known I am very sure Peter will have some new and surprising facts for us.
Wednesday, 21st October the talk will be by Brian Austin on the construction and flying of actual scale model aircraft. These are not models but real flying aircraft correct in every detail. It should be really interesting. The talk will be using power point visual aids.

Brian Johnson

Trees

The existing Trees group will close with a final meeting on **October 8th** at 2.00pm, at David's house in Danbury. It was originally intended that the group should run for ten weeks, when we started two years ago. Thank you to all those faithful members who kept on wanting more, but whom I believe are now capable enough to be let loose on their own, with their trusty identification books in their hands.
However, a daughter group is being discussed. This is likely to be held on Tuesday or Wednesday morning, from say 10.00 – 12.00 once a fortnight and would start from scratch. It could be just on Trees or incorporate a little on other Flowering Plants as well. That will depend entirely on what is asked for by the new members. There is already interest and I would like to know of any more names asap. I shall have a sheet for names at the Open Day, or people could contact me by phone or email.

Veronica Smith

2015/6 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Mon. 21 Sept.	**Maldon U3A Open Day, Town Hall**
Mon. 28 Sept.	Monuments & public art of London & Olympic Park—L.Hist
Tues. 6 Oct.	Visit to Fry Gallery, Saffron Walden - Art Appreciation
Thurs. 12 Oct.	"Beautiful" Aldwych Theatre, London - Theatre
Thurs. 22 Oct.	Walk in the City of London - Ldn Walks
Tues. 24 Nov.	Cockney Evening - Social
2016	
Fri. 12 Feb.	D'ukes Musical Entertainment—Maldon Town Hall—Social
17/21 May	5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—L. Hist

Further details of the above events are available from your Co-ordinator or in the Newsletter.

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A COCKNEY EVENING
with Cockney Pride entertainment

Tuesday 24th November

at

MALDON TOWN HALL

Arrive 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. start

An evening with a Sausage and Mash Supper with
Apple Pie Dessert

Members please bring own drinks and glasses

Ticket price: £12.50

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw

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Wine group 3 enjoying wine tasting at Dedham Vale Vineyard.

Bird Watching

On the group's recent trip to Salcott cum Virley, we visited the nature reserve, walking the sea wall along Salcott Channel and finishing opposite the Essex Wildlife Trust breaching of the sea wall.

The tide was low and the mud flats and gullies accessible to a number of wading birds including Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa), this large wader with long legs, a long straight or slightly up curved orange-yellow bill, with the upper parts of the body grey brown with black spotting, the males, head and neck rust brown.

Swimming in the fast disappearing creek water was the largest European Gull, the Great Black Backed Gull (Larus marinus) a bird that feeds on carrion, small birds and mammals, not the marine worms, small crabs, cockles etc the food of the wading birds feeding on the mud flats.

Bird watching always involves listening and on this occasion the haunting "coor-lee" call of the Curlew accompanied us throughout our visit.

The venue for the bird watching on **3rd October** is Roding Valley Meadows

The **7th November** meeting will be at Abberton Reservoir. Meet in the car park 10.00am.

If any members wish to join us please contact either Pat Clements or Peter Gaywood

Art Appreciation

Our trip to Castle House Dedham to view the paintings in the Munnings Museum was blessed with good weather, the rain held off till after lunch just as we left for home.

We had a very interesting guided tour round the gallery to see Alfred Munnings' wonderful collection of landscapes and horse paintings, including watercolours and oils with original pencil sketches and drawings. Alfred Munnings lived from 1878 to 1959. He was much inspired by the works of John Constable (d.1837) and such were his achievements that he was one of the most celebrated and prolific painters of his day. In 1944 he was knighted and also succeeded Sir Edwin Lutyens as President of The Royal Academy and later he became a KCVO. He had links with Suffolk, Norfolk and Cornwall and spent part of the war in Canada where some of his works remain.

His superb paintings and prolific output were even more astonishing, given that he lost the sight of his right eye in an accident when he was just twenty.

After our tour we all enjoyed a splendid buffet lunch in the highly rated tea room in the attractive grounds of Castle House.

A good day all round!

The Group's next visit will be to The Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden on **Tuesday 6th October**. Please let me know if you wish to come on this outing, again our own cars will be used and car sharing will be recommended.

For those who have not already done so, let me have your emergency name and telephone contact details.

Andy Simmonds

MARITIME TRIP
MIDSOMER MURDERS COUNTRY & GORING GAP CRUISE
MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

We left West Maldon Community Centre at 7:45 am on a chilly Monday morning, but the weather soon changed to glorious sunshine.

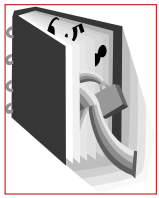
As usual the M25 was a bit slow going so a short stop was made at Beaconsfield Services and we eventually arrived in Dorchester (Oxfordshire) at 11.15 am and met our guide Marian; teas and coffees were served at a local Hotel after which we walked across the road for a guided tour of Dorchester Abbey. The Abbey was founded by a Saxon Bishop and is one of the earliest Christian sites in England and has been used on several episodes of Midsomer Murders. At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in the 1530s, the church building was saved for posterity through its purchase for £140 by local wealthy man, Richard Beauforest, who left it to the village in his will.

After our tour of the Abbey we returned to the Hotel for lunch, after which, it was back on the coach for the short journey to Wallingford where we had some free time to browse this flat and compact town, which serves as Midsomer's Causton in the television series. The centre of Wallingford has the feel of a ypical old market town, with a large open town square around the war memorial, the 17th century arcaded town hall, and numerous shops.

At 3:00pm it was all aboard the Salty Steamers boat for a guided cruise to Goring Gap. We passed under the twisted arches of Brunel's railway bridge which is considered one of the outstanding engineering wonders of the River Thames. The fantastic scenery along the river to Goring Gap is also the setting for such classic books as Wind in the Willows and Three Men in a Boat. We passed the boat house for the Oxford University rowing club together with several other boat houses and large houses with beautifully manicured lawns. Passing through the first of two locks, we sailed past a row of retirement homes set back from the river bank. Our last lock was at Goring, having passed through we sailed down the river for a short time before turning back and mooring adjacent to Goring lock.

It was then back to coach and home via Dorchester where we said goodbye to our guide. The journey home was better than our outward journey. We arrived back at West Maldon Community Centre at 7:45pm. Our thanks to Fred Lane for organising the trip.

U3A 2016 Diaries
Size 3¼" x 6"
Price £2.00 per diary
Colour: Green



Please order and pay for your Diary at the October Meeting onwards or contact me, Jan Robertson, on 01245 225657.

I have ordered 40 diaries this year, so first come first served, get your order in quick.

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Maritime Trip

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FREE

Two leaf fold down kitchen table with 4 folding chairs which slot into the centre.
Ideal for a small room.
Free to anyone who can collect from Tolleshunt Knights.

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For Sale

Lovely squashy chocolate brown leather recliner.
Hardly used. Sadly, too big for newly-downsized home.
Really comfortable. £80.00
Veronica Smith

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MUSEUM OF POWER
LANGFORD

Come for a guided tour at the Museum of Power—see our belt driven workshop, 'Marshall'. The largest triple expansion engine in Essex and domestic/industrial exhibits.

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a slice of scrumptious home-made cake in our Steam Pump Tea Room—breakfasts, lunches and evening meals are also available by prior arrangements.

Open
Wednesday—Sunday
10 am—4 pm

Hatfield Road, Langford, near Maldon, CM9 6QA
Tel. 01621 843183 or enquiries@museumofpower.org.uk
www.museumofpower.org.uk

19th October Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Talk by Brian Curtois
Former Political Correspondent at Westminster

Did you know that in 1935 it was a very special year?

Rowntree introduced a new chocolate crisp bar, which they later named Kit-Kat.
The Ramblers' Association and Alcoholics Anonymous both opened for business.
30mph speed limits were introduced in built up areas and cat's eyes appeared.
Compulsory driving tests were introduced.

Famous people born in 1935

James Bolam, Johnny Mathis, Elvis Presley, Michael Parkinson
Julie Andrews, Ruby Murray, Herb Alpert

Shopping Costs in 1935

Petrol 1s 6d (1.75p litre)
Ladies' floral dress £3.9s 6d (£3.48)
Men's flannel shirt 7s 11d (40)
Road Tax £4.10s (£4.50)
Pint of beer 7d (3p)
6 eggs 1s (5p)
Radio licence 10s (50p)
Tin of tomato soup 7½d (3p)

Average weekly wage for full time workers

Men: £2.16.7d (£2.83)
Women: £1.7s 3d (£1.36)

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY 6th October — Venue to be advised
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY 14th October—Venue to be advised
Co-ordinator: Paul Costa

Note: If you sign up for the lunches and then find you are unable to attend for any reason, can you please notify the Co-ordinator as soon as possible, as places have to be booked at the venues.

BLACKWATER U3A	HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact	Contact
Peter Holmes, Chairman	Joyce Woodham, Chairman
01621 854108	01621 841066

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove
01621 855859

Your Committee

Chairman	Malcolm Case	
Vice Chairman	Brian Johnson	
Secretary	Kym Marshall	
Treasurer	Martin Cook	
Membership Sec.	Alan Clarke	
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	Anthony Groves	
Social Committee	Michael Childs	
AV Equipment	Jim Light	0

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Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th October

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Astrology	Liz Jones
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Aviation	Brian Johnson Mave Studholme
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Bridge for the Curious	Gill Stone
Canasta	Elaine Bane Gerry Brooks
Computers	Jan Robertson
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Discussion	Ray Harman
Egyptology	Joyce Cotterell
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	Ray Harman
Gardeners	Jan Robertson
Geology	Enid Hall
Handicraft	Marian Manning
Just Jazz	Jim Light
Local History	Mary Burd Michael Blackwell
London Walks & Talks	Christine Speed Janeen Trew
Luncheon Group 1st Tues 3rd Wed. Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	 Mike Wood Paul Costa Joyce Cotterell
Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
New Friends	Liz Robson
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Plantagenets	Beryl McDonell
Poetry	Jo Robson
Reading	Sheila Epps
Rummikub 1 Rummikub 2	Colin Beckett Beryl McDonell
Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter
Snooker	John Williams
Strollers	Gill Stone
Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy
Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterell
Trees	Veronica Smith
Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
Whist	Molly Polden
Wine Circle No. 1/2 Wine Circle No. 3 Wine Circle No. 4	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa Alan Clarke
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

PROGRAMME – OCTOBER 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	2	3 Bird Watch- inging	4
5 Maritime Whist	6 Table Tennis Snooker Art Appreciation Geology Luncheon Group	7 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine group 1	8 Ten Pin Bowling Trees Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	9 Architecture Canasta Sing for Pleasure	10	11
12 Theatre *"Beautiful"* Astrology Handicrafts Whist	13 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology	14 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	15 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious	16 Mah Jong	17	18 Strollers
19 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	20 Table Tennis Snooker	21 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Grou0 Aviation	22 Ten Pin Bowling London Walks & Talks Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine group 3 Scottish Country Dancing	23 Canasta Cribbage Sing for Pleasure	24	25
26 Local History Astronomy Handicrafts Whist	27 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Wine Group 4	28 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine group 2 Writing for Fun	29 Ten Pin Bowling	30 Family History Mah Jong	31	

I try my utmost to get the calendar correct each month, but I would advise you always to check with your co-ordinator as to the date of your next meeting.

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Jan Robertson,